WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1	1.	A method for communicating messages using a signaling
2	compression protocol, the method comprising:
3	detecting control messages at a communication intermediary from a
4	compressed stream of messages;

5	decompressing the detected control messages at the communication
6	intermediary; and

7	passing user messages from the compressed stream of messages through
8	the communication intermediary without modifications.

1	2.	The method claim 1, wherein the control messages comprise a
2	multiplex identifier.

1	3.	The method of claim 2, wherein the multiplex identifier is located at
2	the beginning of a communication session.

1	4.	The method of claim 2, wherein detecting control messages at a
2	communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages comprises
3	detecting the multiplex identifier.

1	5.	The method of claim 2, wherein user messages are messages
2	without the multiplex identifier.

1	6.	The method of claim 1, wherein the control messages are hop-by-
2	hop messages and user messages are end-to-end messages.

1   7.   A device that communicates messages using a signaling

2 compression protocol, the device comprising:

3   an input that receives messages;

4   an output that transmits messages;

5   a processor that detects control messages included in the messages

6 received by the input, wherein the processor decompresses the control

7 messages and directs non-control messages to be communicated through the

8 output without modification.

1   8.   The device of claim 7, wherein the processor detects control

2 messages by identifying a special bytecode contained in the control messages.

1   9.   The device of claim 7, wherein the control messages are

2 uncompressed.

1   10.   The device of claim 7, wherein the control messages are used at

2 the beginning of a session and the processor enters a forwarding mode after the

3 control messages are received.

1   11.   The device of claim 7, wherein the modification comprises

2 decompression.

1   12.   A system for communicating messages using a signaling

2 compression protocol, the system comprising:

3   a first communication device having a compressor and a decompressor;

4   a second communication device having a compressor and a

5 decompressor; and

6   an intermediate relay between the first communication device and the

7 second communication device that detects and decompresses control messages

8 in messages communicated from the first communication device, and passes

9 user messages through to the second communication device without

10   decompression.

1   13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediate relay detects
2   control messages when the intermediate relay detects an identifier located in the
3   messages.

1   14.   The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediate relay enters
2   forwarding mode after control messages are received.

1   15.   The system of claim 12, wherein messages communicated from the
2   first communication device comprise compressed and uncompressed messages,
3   the control messages being uncompressed and the user messages being
4   compressed.

1   16.   A computer program product comprising:

2   computer code configured to:
3   detect control messages at a communication intermediary
4   from a stream of messages;

5   decompress the detected control messages at the
6   communication intermediary; and

7   communicate user messages from the stream of messages
8   through the communication intermediary without modification.

1   17.   The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising
2   computer code to identify a byte code designating a control message.

1   18.   The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the byte code
2   loads a compression algorithm into a processor.

1   19.   The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the control
2   messages are hop-by-hop messages.

1   20.   The computer program product of claim 16, wherein messages

2 comprise compressed and uncompressed messages, the control messages being

3 uncompressed and the user messages being compressed and a transition from

4 uncompressed to compressed is signaled using a control message.